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20 July 1985**Cash Reward for Informers One Method**

# How to Prevent U.S. Security Scandals

By DAVID MARTIN

During World War II, as a part of my training as a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) pilot in England, I was exposed to a training film made for the specific purpose of alerting members of the British forces to the stratagems and perils of the Nazi intelligence operation. The film was cast in fictional format, but was one of the most chillingly realistic productions I have ever seen.

The central character was a nice-looking man of smaller than average stature, a man of a bland and kindly appearance, who engaged in all kinds of crime related to his trade, including the murder by strangulation of an innocent girl who accidentally stumbled onto his activities. When the film was released for public viewing, one reviewer wrote that "after seeing this film, I shall never again trust a nice-looking little man."

**Walkers Don't Look Like Spies**

The "nice-looking little man" came to mind again as a result of the Walker espionage case. The people thus far involved do not look like spies. (When do spies ever look like spies?) They give the impression of being ordinary Americans. Certainly none of them was motivated by sympathy for Communist ideology. But for complex reasons, varying from individual to individual, they got caught up in the web of Soviet espionage activities in this country. In the case of the four men who have thus far been arrested, here are the salient facts:

**Retired Navy Chief Warrant Officer John Anthony Walker Jr., 47,** was the central figure in the conspiracy. He had taught at the Navy Communications School in San Diego, had served as communications watch officer for the Atlantic Naval Surface Force, and had fathered a family of four children by his wife Barbara, whom he had divorced in 1976. He worked for approximately two years for the Wackenhut Corp., and then had set up on his own

as a private investigator, specializing in divorce cases and phony insurance claims and the "debugging" of offices. He had a photograph of Ronald Reagan on his desk. In 1979, in the course of appearing on a Norfolk radio station, he claimed to be state organizer for the Ku Klux Klan.

**Seaman Michael Walker, 22,** the son of John Walker, who was serving aboard the aircraft carrier *Nimitz*, was arrested simultaneously and returned to the United States to face trial. Michael was an exceptionally clean-cut and handsome young man who loved surfing and dancing and who had been voted by his senior high school class to be the "best looking" male graduate.

He is reported to have worshipped his father.

**Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Arthur James Walker, 50,** John Walker's brother, was arrested a week later. Arthur Walker was well thought of by his neighbors in Virginia Beach, Va., had helped establish the block's anti-crime program, and had served as president of the local civic league and other clubs. In his Navy career, he had taught anti-submarine tactics at the Atlantic Fleet Tactical School until 1973, when he retired. Before that he had held a series of responsible positions aboard submarines, including officer-in-charge of communications and executive officer. He fathered three children and, in the words of one neighbor, they were "an all-American family."

**Jerry Alfred Whitworth, 45,** who surrendered to federal agents in San Francisco, was the fourth member of the spy ring to be arrested. He had met John Walker when they had both been teaching at the Navy Communications School in San Diego. He had served as communications watch officer aboard the aircraft carrier *Enterprise*, had been in charge of communications security at the Alameda Naval Air Station, and had had two tours based on the U.S. Navy's highly secret facility in Diego

Garcia in the Indian Ocean (1973 and 1976). Before the second tour had ended, he had risen to the position of communications specialist aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier *Constellation*, with the rank of chief radioman. Associates of Whitworth, like the associates of the others arrested, found it difficult to believe that he had been guilty of espionage.

**Former Wife Tipped Off the FBI**

John Walker's divorced wife, Barbara, 47, who had agonized for 15 years over the knowledge that her former husband was a Soviet spy, finally screwed up her determination, after receiving a phone call from her daughter Laura, and went to the FBI in November 1984 to report what she knew. She was subsequently quoted as saying that, if she had known that her report would result in the arrest of her son Michael, she doesn't know that she could have gone to the FBI. Laura Walker also went to the FBI, shortly after her mother. According to Laura, John Walker made an effort to recruit her—she was then serving as an Army communications specialist—for his family spy ring.

**Daughter May Have Been Recruitment Target**

The FBI placed Walker under surveillance after the tip from his divorced wife. On May 19, 1985, on the basis of a bugged telephone conversation, they finally hit pay dirt. After following Walker for many miles, losing him and then refinding him, they saw Walker leave a brown shopping bag beside a tree near Poolesville, Md. Anticipating a pickup, the agents waited.

Another car, subsequently identified as belonging to Aleksey Gavrilovich Tkachenko of the Soviet Embassy, approached the area, but, apparently convinced that they were under surveillance, did not stop. When the agents picked up the shopping bag, they

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